



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: July 11, 2000

Comment Period Ends: August 11, 2000

File Number: 200001665

In Reply Refer To: (Mr.) Laurie H.Suda

Or by e-mail: Laurie.H. Suda@usace.army.mil

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202 has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge dredge and fill material to improve the water quality of Robinson Pond in Robinson State Park in Agawam. This work includes rehabilitation of the intermittent stream and excavation of accumulated sediments within the pond. The following are the proposed activities.

Stabilize the intermittent stream through application of topsoil, reseeding with a wetland seed mix, and application of a permanent erosion control blanket; to 17,174 square feet of wetlands and 921 linear feet of stream. (The impacts include the stilling ponds and riprap protection.) The actions taken to improve the intermittent stream include (1) 2 small stilling basins impacting 2,858 square feet of "Waters of the U. S." are proposed within the stream to provide sediment removal; (2) replacing existing culverts with new culverts of 18"-24", one within the Northeast Utilities Power Line Easement and one beneath the Park's ORV Road to prevent future washouts and flooding; (3) installing rip-rap protection at culvert outfalls; (4) resurfacing the parking lot to direct runoff into the water quality improvement swale; (5) installing a new BMP catch basin (four-foot sump).

During annual drawdown, excavate in the dry approximately 1,260 cubic yards of accumulated shallow sediment and nuisance vegetation from an approximate 22,651 square feet of "Waters of the U. S." (0.52-acre area) of the 2.08-acre pond. Prior to removal by mechanical means, sediment will be allowed to dry in place. The dewatered material will then be scraped into piles on the beaches where further drying will occur before they have lost enough moisture to be handled effectively. The material will then be loaded on trucks and removed from the park except for a minor amount (approx. 100 cubic yards) that will be stockpiled in an upland area near the H.Q. building for use as top-dressing. A temporary sump will be constructed near the pond outlet to allow for recirculation of all water from the pond back into the sedimentation pool and through the sand filter during excavation operations. The pumping during the excavation will prevent sediment-laden water from being discharged into the adjacent Westfield River.

The project proposes to completely remove the existing sand from the beaches (above and below the water line) down to a depth of approximately 12 to 18-inches, and replace it with clean washed sand. This consists of approximately 871 cubic yards of sand from an approximate 15,682 square feet below the water line.

The project proposes the installation of a permanent sluice gate on the inlet side of the bypass structure to replace the current plywood method, which allows sediment-laden water to bypass the sand filter.

A small area near the northern beach will be regraded to redirect storm water around the beach and prevent continued wash outs of the beach sand into the pond. A two-vehicle paved universal parking area is proposed near the northern beach to accommodate handicapped access. A stabilized sand path is proposed from the parking area to a landing area at the beach where a rubberize seasonal mat (608 square feet) can be placed into the water to allow wheelchair access into the pond.

This project is located on the USGS West Springfield quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 466225 N and 69275 E.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact (Mr.) Laurie H. Suda at (978) 318-8493, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
DETAILS OF EVALUATION
FACTORS

Karen Kirk Adams
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Section
Regulatory Branch

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

If you would prefer not to continue receiving public notices, please check here () and return this portion of the public notice to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME:

ADDRESS: